

February 28, 2021

Greetings All!

If you attended or watched last Sunday's worship service, you may have been puzzled by my comment during the Benediction that I wouldn't be using a word I normally include. (Hint: it's "Alleluia.") A worship practice that I've adopted for many years is known as "putting away the alleluias" or refraining from speaking or using that word in worship during Lent.

As with many exercise routines, Lenten practices require discipline. Lent also becomes a time when individuals give up something - chocolate, caffeine, or other things - as a spiritual practice in reflection and self-denial leading up to Easter. Giving up something as a Lenten practice is commendable but let's also consider this to be a time in which we can take on a practice.

Have you considered a Lenten practice of designating a certain time each day for Scripture reading and prayerful reflection? Would you be willing to begin the habit of purchasing extra food items each week and donating them to a food pantry? How about going through your closet and pulling clothing you no longer wear or need to give to Turning Point or Salvation Army or other agencies providing clothing to the needy?

I will stifle the urge to use "that word" in worship for the next few weeks while realizing the joy it will bring to say it on Easter Sunday when the church proclaims "Jesus Christ is risen today...!"

Blessings,
Edward